RECEIVED & INSPECTED

MAY 1 3 2003

FCC-MAILROOM

The Honorable Michael K. Powell Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Powell:

Subject: Broadcast Ownership Rules

I urge you not to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. Many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership protections that, for decades, have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely.

David Martin

David Martin

Confirmed

MAY : 6 2003

Distribution Center

MAY 1 3 2003

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin Federal Communications Commission Commissioner 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

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The Honorable Michael J. Copps Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

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Subject: Broadcast Ownership Rules

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Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

Distribution Center

MAY 1 3 2003 FCC - MAILFOOM

12 Riverside Court Berlin, MD 21811 May 7, 2003

Chairman Michael Powell FCC 445 12th St, SW Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Please Do Not Relax Broadcast Ownership Rules

Dear Chairman Powell:

We are writing to ask that you not relax broadcast ownership rules.

The proposed new rules would permit a few large corporations to exert much greater control on the media, and would reduce airing of divergent political views. Allowing a few corporations to control the media would abridge political speech in America, and therefore would not be in America's best interest.

Sincerely,

Carl Johnson Barbara Johnson Carl and Barbara Johnson



May 5, 2003

Michael K. Powell, Chariman, F.C.C. 445 12th St. SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell,

It would be a terribly serious blow to democracy and freedom of expression if, under your watch, the public air warves became monopolized by a few corporate - controlled interests.

History will be the judge.

Mary Daniel

Sincerely;,

Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

Distribution Center

512 Woodland Jer-Phile. Pa. 19104

48468 Santiam Hwy Cascadia, OR 97386 May 1, 2003 May 1

Chairman Michael K. Powell Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554 Dear Chairman Powell,

(re: Broadcast Ownership Docket -82-277)

It is both the responsibility and public mandate to the feet of the media serves the collective benefit of the people. We are not benefited when an issue as important as the FCC's recent decision to review/change media ownership rules occurs and the only major broadcaster to report this (ABC) does so at 4:40 am. I'd say this is a case in point'. Even a superficial look at what media consolidation to date has actually done to 1) objectivity 2) unbiased reporting of events 3) diversity of views 4) stating the simple TRUTH, reveals that allowing further sabotage on public media ownership/control is a huge mistake.

Referring to the not so hidden attempt by the corporate agenda to control the public media, commissioner Copps stated,".....it also has some profound democratic and social and political considerations that we ignore only at our own tremendous peril." In my opinion, his words are an understatement. I am totally opposed to ANY deregulation of the FCC's current standards. If anything these ought to be more stringently written and enforced. The corporate grab has already managed to manipulate and work around existing regulations. Those of us who pay attention have watched this not so hidden corporate power grab for the last decade and we are outraged!

It is the function of the FCC to support and protect the public good not the profit-driven corporations and power-driven political interests. It is the case that we currently have the illusion of choice replacing diversity and authentic Options to select from. The wave of mergers which resulted from the 1996 Telecommunications Act is just one example of how the FCC has fallen short of honoring its mandate to serve the public welfare. As I recall, one of your justifications for pushing this act through was that the cable service rates would decrease. Well sir, as you well know cable costs have Increased 30%. The 'public' does not benefit when seven of the largest cable companies control over 75% of the market; this is called a Monopoly!

"The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum - even encourage the more critical and dissident views. That gives people the sense that there's free thinking going on, while all the time the presuppositions of the system are being reinforced by the limits put on the range of the debate." -- Noam Chomsky, American linguist

I assure you that many of the 'people' are paying attention.

Sincerely, Tony Costa

THOMAS R. MARMON
4621 Brill Street
Indianapolis, IN 46227
(317) 784-9913
Fax (503) 218-9791
Email: tmarmon@netzero.net

The second secon

May 6, 2003

The Honorable Michael J. Cropps Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Cropps:

I urge you <u>not</u> to relax the rules governing broadcast ownership. Changing the existing rules certainly benefits large conglomerate media companies but it does not bode well for the public.

The public good depends upon a healthy airing of the many varied viewpoints on the vast issues pertaining to our national interests. The proposed changes makes it possible for large media conglomerates to provide information, viewpoints, and perspectives consistent with *their* views, instead of providing greater discourses and diversity in views. A healthy debate requires many perspectives from many arenas.

Changing the broadcast ownership rules affords too much control of programming and program content into the hands of too few media companies. I urge you not to change the rules of ownership for the greater public good.

Sincerely,

Homo K Mamon
Thomas R. Marmon

Confirmed

MAY 1 & 2003

Distribution Center

THOMAS R. MARMON
4621 Brill Street
Indianapolis, IN 46227
(317) 784-9913
Fax (503) 218-9791
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May 6, 2003

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Floros K. Mauren Thomas R. Marmon

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48468 Santiam Hwy Cascadia, OR 97386 May 1, 2003 Confirmed

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**Distribution Center** 

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Sincerely,

Thomas R. Marmon

Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

Patricia A. Cavender

4 Robin Drive, Hockessin, DE 19707

302-235-1035

May 7, 2003



The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Mr. Adelstein:

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It has historically been shown that when large corporations accumulate enough power and money to achieve a monopoly in any field, the ultimate losers are the people. It has been necessary in the past for the government to step in to break up such monopolies for the good of the country and the protection of the people. Only in the case of natural monopolies, such as the distribution of water, electric power and gas and collection of sewage, where duplication of facilities would be wasteful is a regulated monopoly advantageous to the public. Even then, Congress has moved in recent years to deregulate natural monopolies, albeit with poor results and unfortunate consequences.

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Sincerely yours,

Patricia A. Cavender

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Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

## HAROLD & ALBERTA BOOTS 1624 SOUTH DEWEY AVE. BARTLESVILLE, OK 74003-5819

Tuesday, May 06, 2003



The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Adelstein:

We understand that media corporations are lobbying the FCC to relax the broadcast ownership rules that prevent media monopolies.

It is our understanding if the proposed broadcast ownership rules are adopted our sources of news from newspaper, television stations, radio stations, and cable companies could be taken over by the larger media corporations like ABC, CBS, and NBC.

It is our feeling that the larger corporations like the ones mentioned above are using their power to keep opposing viewpoints off of the air and out of the newspapers.

The sources of news of an entire community even the entire state could be taken over by one large media corporation. This would permit them to determine which viewpoints to be allowed on the air or be published in the newspapers.

We want to hear more than one point of view on all major news items. We feel a good example of that today is Fox News, they provide a healthy debate on most major news events.

We urge the FCC to continue the broadcast ownership rules that protect us from media monopolies.

Sincerely, Harall J. Boots

alberta M. Bosts
Harold L. Boots

Alberta M. Boots

Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

5 May 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554



Virginia Myhaver 412 Circle Drive Santa Fe, NM 87501

## Commissioner Martin:

I urge you most vehemently not to weaken the media-ownership rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of American media. Repeal or significant modification of these rules would likely open the door to numerous mergers. This will assure that media ownership will become even more concentrated among fewer companies than it already is, and the public's ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised. Plus, it would likely result in higher costs for businesses that advertise in local media, and those costs would likely be passed on to consumers.

I am aware that Chairman Powell favors deregulation and holds the opinion that consolidation is simply a healthy trend in business, dictated by market forces. However, the relationship citizens in a democracy have with media does not compare to that which we have with other "products." The mass media shape our thoughts, decisions, and values and indeed, should provide the information and news we need to fully participate in our democratic society. An understanding of the profound impact the media have upon our lives and our democracy led to the establishment of the Federal Communications Commission and to its primary mission: to ensure that our airwaves are used by broadcasters in the "public interest." The emergence of cable and satellite conglomerates has proven that more channels do not translate into the diverse voices, enhanced localism, or even variety in programming which are essential to a pluralist culture and the democratic process.

Reports and transcripts of public hearings indicate that the relatively few members of the public who are aware of the proposed changes are overwhelmingly opposed to media consolidation. They are joined by leading religious and civil rights groups, the Consumer's Federation of America, and numerous small, independent media outlets. Americans understand that the public interest is not being served by deregulation that reduces competition.

Members of Congress and the Senate have expressed concern regarding the lack of opportunity for review of proposed changes. I am aware that the Chairman has cited governmental pressure (which I suspect initially emanates from the powerful communications lobby) as a cause for the acceleration of the decision-making process. Clearly, a directive to slow the process down is now being put forth; doing so could thus be enacted without reproach. While it is within the Commission's legal domain to make changes without consulting others further, I urge you to heed this request and the public's comments. Certainly, the "public interest" is best served by informing the citizenry of the intended changes and by allowing for further public and governmental response to decisions which will likely reconfigure American media, journalism, and democracy dramatically.

Thank You,

Virginia Myhaver

Confirmed

MAY 1 & 2003

Distilled

THOMAS R. MARMON
4621 Brill Street
Indianapolis, IN 46227
(317) 784-9913
Fax (503) 218-9791
Email: tmarmon@netzero.net

May 6, 2003

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Martin:

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Homas R. Marmon

MAY 1 % 2003

Distribution Center

Ronald S. Sullivan P.O. Box 1356 Sallisaw, OK 74955 May 6, 2003



The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Adelstein:

I understand the FCC is now considering modification of certain rules pertaining to monopoly and near-monopoly ownership of media broadcast sources in our nation. Please do not relax these rules.

Already, we are to the point at which particular political and social philosophies have difficulty in communicating their positions on important points. "Political Correctness" has priority over the right of free speech; media giants hold excessive power over information spooned out to the public; and selective exposure grins out at us from our TV screen on every controversial question.

If strong monopoly restrictions are not retained, we'll soon have all our information strained through the personal perspectives of half-a-dozen media CEO's. We'll hear and see what they want us to hear and see. We'll be a bland, homogenized mass of carbon copies totally subservient to the world-view of those CEO's—or to the political party which lucks into playing its licensing power at the right time.

Your maintenance of a strong curb-bit on these media giants-by preventing their gaining excessive power-will assure that we continue to hear some independent political and social voices over our air-waves. By doing so, you will certainly help protect our First Amendment rights.

So please don't relax these broadcast media ownership rules.

STUCELATY,

Ronald S. Sullivan

Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

May 6, 2003 Holland, MN



Dear Mr. Copps:

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Sincerely,

Harold and Jennie Westra

Harold & Jennia Westra

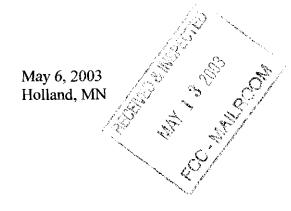
450 Sioux ST

Holland, MN 56139

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Holland, MN 56139

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MAY 1 6 2003

Ronald S. Sullivan P.O. Box 1356 Sallisaw, OK 74955 May 5, 2003

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Sincerely,

Ronald s. Sullivan Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

## Karen A. Cerwinski Rt 1 Box 186 New Canton, Va. 23123-9742



The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Adelstein:

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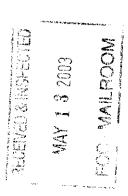
Sincerely,

Ms. Karen A. Cerwinski

Confirmed

NG2 € 2003

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Ronald S. Sullivan

Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

Mary Forseth
5449 Nature Rd NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-751-7732
forseth@paulbunyan.net



May 4, 2003

RE: Broadcast ownership rules

To: Federal Communications Commission Commissioners, Ms. Abernathy, Mr. Copps, Mr. Adelstein, Mr. Martin and Chairman Powell

Dear Sirs and Madam,

I am very concerned about the chance of a monopoly developing in the area of broadcast media. The information filtered down to Americans by large media conglomerates is one-sided enough without giving them unfair advantage. It is difficult for the small grassroots American to have their voice heard as it is, DO NOT make it impossible! I would like to see tougher restrictions on the number of broadcast station one conglomerate could own.

One of the corner stones that makes this nation great is our first amendment right to free speech, it will do us little good if the FCC rules in such a way to make it impossible for the voice opposing "big media and friends" to be heard on a nation-wide broadcast.

Make the right choice, all Americans should have a voice.

Sincerely,

Mary Forseth

Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

May 7, 2003

Confirmed

MAY 1 6 2003

Distribution Center



The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

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